

To: Ferrell, Mark[Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov]
Cc: Rogers, Rod[Rod.Rogers@mail.house.gov]; Deeley, Blake[Blake.Deeley@mail.house.gov]; Davis, CatherineM[Davis.CatherineM@epa.gov]
From: Hamilton, Mike
Sent: Mon 5/23/2016 4:28:08 PM
Subject: RE: Updated health advisories - PFOA and PFOS - drinking water

Thanks Mark.

As for my question on the number of water systems above the health advisory limit, I read this:

http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2016/05/epa_8_alabama_drinking_water_s.html

According to the latest EPA data, 13 water systems nationwide showed levels of PFOA above the new 70 parts per trillion threshold and 46 showed elevated levels of PFOS. In water supplies where both chemicals are found, EPA counts the combined amount of both chemicals.

Can you confirm that is accurate? Do you have a list?

From: Ferrell, Mark [mailto:Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2016 11:38 AM
To: Hamilton, Mike
Cc: Rogers, Rod; Deeley, Blake; Davis, CatherineM
Subject: Re: Updated health advisories - PFOA and PFOS - drinking water

Good morning Mike

I'm told by DHHR that Chemours was out there in Vienna this morning doing some prep work for the installation of filters at the water plant, but last I heard the estimated timeline for installation of the permanent filters is still six to eight weeks. They're working on a temporary solution though. Also, the town is working with the Parkersburg Utility Board to hook in about one-third of Vienna's customers to the Parkersburg water system.

Chemours and the Salvation Army have brought in thousands of cases of bottled water (11,000 from Chemours; they didn't say how many from Salvation Army) and emergency officials are actually moving out some of the tankers because they're not being used as much, now that the bottled water is there.

There is a state girls softball tournament in Vienna Wednesday and Thursday, but they'll have bottled water and may move one of the tankers over for that.

I'm including some clips below that I believe can help answer your questions about how PFOA (a lot of folks still refer to it as C8 in West Virginia) came to presence in our water supplies, in addition to the links included at the bottom of my original message in this thread.

~Mark

Mark Ferrell

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CHARLESTON GAZETTE-MAIL

Recent Vienna water tests well over new C8 limit (Friday) Vienna residents were advised not to drink or cook with their municipal water on Thursday because five water samples, taken last year from throughout the water system, showed levels of C8 higher than a new advisory level for the chemical released earlier that day. Vienna's water comes from eight wells in three separate well groupings, and all three groupings were found to have elevated levels of C8 - a chemical linked to cancer and numerous other health problems - when tests were done in May and December of 2015. In 2009, the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set a provisional health advisory for C8 of 400 parts per trillion in drinking water. Recent test results all fall below that limit. But on Thursday, after years of delays, the EPA set a long-term advisory limit of 70 parts per trillion. Environmental groups and local lawyers have been pleading with EPA to take action for more than 15 years, and many say that the new level is still far too lenient in the amount of C8 it says is permissible in drinking water. They're also critical that the limit is advisory only, and does not carry the force of law. "EPA must set a legally enforceable standard that will protect the millions of Americans drinking C8 contaminated water," said Paul Brooks, a Vienna doctor and leader of the group Keep Your Promises DuPont. "This guideline falls short of that goal."

Vienna residents, business owners grapple with new C8 guidelines VIENNA —

Standing in her Vienna restaurant during the lunch-time rush Friday, Cindi Emrick had mostly questions and frustration about an advisory not to drink or cook with the city's tap water. Nothing about the water had changed overnight in the city near where DuPont Co. had, for years, been making the chemical C8, so why, she wondered, was the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency changing the allowable limits so drastically now. "Why are we panicking? It's the same water we drank yesterday," she said. Emrick co-owns Mr. Hot Diggity Dog, which has been open on Grand Central Avenue for 16 years and in the city for a total of 20. On Thursday, the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health put in place an advisory for the city's water users not to drink or cook with the water. The advisory followed new EPA guidelines that say drinking water with 70 parts of C8 per trillion or less is "not expected to result in adverse health effects over a lifetime of exposure." The chemical, which has contaminated the water in Wood County communities for years, has been linked to cancer, thyroid disease and dangerously high blood pressure in pregnant women. The restaurant brought in bottled water for customers and alternative water for cooking, she said. Signs posted on the door and its drink machine warned patrons that it uses city water in the soda machine. For the most part, customers didn't seem to care at all about the EPA's new warning, she said. "Every customer that's come in has got soda," Emrick said. "They're not even affected by the announcement." The city brought in borrowed tankers full of water from the city of Parkersburg, which also was affected by the new guidelines. Water there tested above the allowable limits, too, but officials there were able to switch to wells that tested at lower levels of the chemical...

WHYY NEWSWORKS PHILADELPHIA

8 water wells taken offline outside of Philadelphia over contamination concerns (Friday)

In an effort to protect the water supply, several suburban Philadelphia towns will stop using several wells that may be unsafe. Kyle Bagenstose of the Bucks County Courier Times has been following the story and joined Newsworks Tonight's Dave Heller to give an update. The chemicals in question, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), can be found in firefighting foams that were used at

military bases in the area. Health advisories established in 2009 set hazardous levels of the possible carcinogens at 0.4 parts per billion for PFOA in drinking water, and 0.2 ppb for PFOS. But the new numbers lower that line to .007ppb for each. Research on connecting the chemicals to health problems such as cancer is still young. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is currently looking at data on cancer in the area over the past thirty years to determine there is a link, and Bagenstose says their findings could be released as soon as the summer.

DOYLESTOWN INTELLIGENCER

DEP distributes free bottled water in Horsham (Friday) A steady stream of Horsham, Warrington and Warminster residents came to the Horsham Community Center Friday to get cases of free bottled water. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection distributed the water to those who have had their water contaminated with perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS) or perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), which are suspected to have come from firefighting foam used at the former Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base in Horsham, the Horsham Air Guard Station and the former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster...

GREENWIRE

DRINKING WATER: Teflon chemical's legacy grows as EPA starts crackdown U.S. EPA's clampdown on chemicals used to make Teflon cookware, plastics and fabrics is likely to take a long time. The agency issued a health advisory yesterday aimed at limiting concentrations of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in drinking water to 70 parts per trillion. That concentration is the equivalent of a drop of water in 3 ½ Olympic-sized swimming pools (*E&ENews PM*, May 19). EPA's move comes as rural communities in New Hampshire, New York and Vermont are wrestling with the spread of one of those chemicals -- PFOA -- in groundwater. There's no legal standard limiting PFOA in drinking water, but the chemical has been linked to health problems -- organ damage, cancer and birth defects -- in laboratory animals. "The fundamental problem is that we haven't characterized how widespread it is," said Erik Olson, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's health program. "As we look for it more, we're finding it more." Groundwater contamination in Hoosick Falls, N.Y.; North Bennington, Vt.; and Merrimack and Amherst, N.H., have been tied to one company, Paris-based Saint-Gobain SA, manufacturer of hard plastics and waterproofing chemicals. Saint-Gobain's products go into the hard white material used to make sports stadium roofs and the fabric treatment for hazardous material suits.

From: Hamilton, Mike <Mike.Hamilton@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 23, 2016 11:24 AM
To: Ferrell, Mark
Cc: Rogers, Rod; Deeley, Blake
Subject: RE: Updated health advisories - PFOA and PFOS - drinking water

Mark,

A few follow up questions from our end.

- Do you have a hard number of water systems that are above the health advisory and where they are?
- How are those communities reacting to address this issue? Did they advise citizens to not drink the water?
- How did PFOA/PFOS get into the groundwater?

Thanks,

Mike

From: Ferrell, Mark [<mailto:Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov>]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2016 3:13 PM
To: Hamilton, Mike
Cc: Rogers, Rod; Deeley, Blake
Subject: Re: Updated health advisories - PFOA and PFOS - drinking water

Mike

Here are responses to your original 2 questions. Additional questions posed in Congressman McKinley's letter to HQ are being looked at now.

~Mark

1. How many water systems across the country do you estimate are above the .07 ppb standard?

EPA's UCRM3 data provides nationally representative information on the occurrence of contaminants drinking water. Based on EPA's UCMR3 data, PFOA and PFOS are appearing at levels above the health advisory in approximately 1% of the monitored PWSs.

2. For communities like Vienna what resources – financial and otherwise – are available from EPA to help them address this immediately? They are a small community and they don't have a lot of resources to fix the problem (for a filtration system, etc).

Yes, EPA will be available to provide technical assistance and will continue to support states in working with drinking water systems that may have concerns with elevated levels of PFOA and PFOS in their drinking water. Treatment and technical assistance for PFOA and PFOS (like other contaminants) can be funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the DWSRF set-asides. Use of the fund is determined by state programs, which prioritize projects based on risk to health, compliance, and system need.

From: Hamilton, Mike <Mike.Hamilton@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Friday, May 20, 2016 10:18 AM

To: Ferrell, Mark

Cc: Rogers, Rod; Deeley, Blake

Subject: RE: Updated health advisories - PFOA and PFOS - drinking water

Mark –

As you are likely aware, this new standard impacts several communities, including Vienna, WV where they have issued a “do not drink” order.

My question is two part:

1. How many water systems across the country do you estimate are above the .07 ppb standard?
2. For communities like Vienna what resources – financial and otherwise – are available from EPA to help them address this immediately? They are a small community and they don’t have a lot of resources to fix the problem (for a filtration system, etc).

Please let me know as soon as possible.

Thanks,

Mike

From: Ferrell, Mark [<mailto:Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2016 2:10 PM

Subject: Updated health advisories - PFOA and PFOS - drinking water

Today, based on the latest science, EPA released drinking water health advisories to provide the most up-to-date information on the health risks of PFOA and PFOS. These advisories will help local water systems and state, tribal and local officials take the appropriate steps to address PFOA and PFOS if needed. EPA’s assessment indicates that drinking water with individual or combined concentrations of PFOA and PFOS below 70 parts per trillion is not expected to result in adverse health effects over a lifetime of exposure. These levels reflect a margin of protection, including for the most sensitive populations.

If these chemicals are found in drinking water systems above these levels, system operators should quickly conduct additional sampling to assess the level, scope, and source of contamination. They should also promptly notify consumers and consult with their state drinking water agency to discuss appropriate next steps. Public notification is especially important for pregnant or nursing women because of the impact these chemicals can have on the development of fetuses and breastfed or formula-fed infants. There are a number of options available to water systems to lower concentrations of these chemicals in the drinking water supply.

For most people, their source of exposure to PFOA and PFOS has come through food and consumer products. But drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in the small percentage of communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. This is typically a localized issue associated with a specific facility – for example, in communities where a manufacturing plant or airfield made or used these chemicals.

More information:

EPA's Drinking Water Website: epa.gov/safewater

PFOA and PFOS health advisories: epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos

“Science Guides Public Health Protection for Drinking Water” blog: blog.epa.gov

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

<https://blog.epa.gov/blog/2016/05/protection-for-drinking-water/>

Regards,

Mark

Mark Ferrell

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